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The County Campaign

The Meeting at Hopewell Tuesday—Full Report of the Speeches of the Various Candidates.

The third meeting of the county campaign was held at Hopewell on Aug. 11, 1908. The meeting was presided over by that excellent presiding officer, Mr. W. G. A. Porter, who in an appropriate manner introduced the various candidates. As usual the people of Hopewell had supplied an excellent platform for the speakers. Every courtesy was shown your reporter by the presiding officer and other citizens. About 300 citizens were in attendance and gave excellent attention to the speeches of the various candidates. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. E. P. McKissick, who prayed God's blessings upon the candidates, our State and county.

The presiding officer in opening the meeting asked that each candidate be given a careful and respectful hearing.

The following was the order of the speaking:

For the House of Representatives:

HON. J. HARRY FOSTER.

A God given privilege to be able to address his fellow citizens in a community where Buford and his brave men died in battle. "Dixie" land has been faithful to her history and has done much to build up the county. Here to select best and most competent men for office. Get the best man you can for the money. Fighting no man, attacking no man's record or reputation. Last legislature was too extravagant. It appropriated nearly \$500,000 more than the one to which I belonged. If elected, I will stand for the strictest economy. I will not increase your taxes one dollar. Will vote for what the people want. Believe that the people of the county are opposed to the Immigration Bureau and therefore I will oppose it if elected to legislature. Can see no prospect of any benefit from it. Opposed to compulsory system of education—for it means taking white people's money to educate negroes and because it is undemocratic. Let every man manage his own family. Does not believe in educating the negro. In favor of better common schools, for which we are now doing much. Every community should see after its own schools. Favors letting liquor question stand just as it is. The people of any county may have liquor or not just as they please. If you want liquor, have it. I am not going to drink it.

Am in favor of legislation that will enable the Southern railway to improve the old Three C's railroad so that it will be of greater service to the people. We are now paying interest on these railroad bonds and we should get all the advantage we can from this railroad. With the necessary legislation that would give the Southern a good title to it this road could be made of much greater service to our people. Am in favor of good public roads. Thinks best plan to issue bonds in sufficient amount—to run for 20 or 40 years—to raise funds sufficient to build good roads. Future generations would help to pay for them. However, that question should be submitted to the people for their approval or rejection. When in legislature held places on important committees and did good work for my county and the State. You should select a man to represent you who can secure positions on the various important committees, for in that way he can be of most service to you.

HON. W. P. ROBINSON.

a candidate for reelection. We are proud of the religious and educational progress of this community. Great progress being made in county on agricultural lines. Sometimes wishes he had never left the farm. Returns thanks for handsome vote given him by this section two years ago. Have tried to be faithful in discharge of my duties in legislature. In the prime of life and full of energy. Have tried to carry out every pledge made to you. Is proud of every vote he cast—that has resulted in increased appropriations—for those measures looked to the betterment of the old

Confederate soldier and to the educational progress of our State. The insurance department, one of the best that has ever been established in the State. It costs the State nothing, for the insurance companies pay all the expenses. Voted to reduce the appropriation for the immigration bureau. Am opposed to this department, for it has never brought one desirable immigrant to our county. Is in favor of our State colleges and high school appropriations. Examine tax receipts of last year and you will find that your taxes have not been materially increased. In favor of good roads, just as he was two years ago. The present law a great improvement over the old law. Every State in the Union, that has good roads, levies a tax for that purpose. Under old law the poor man worked road. Now every citizen, whether rich or poor, bears his share of road burden. The present act a step in the right direction. Heretofore we have had no system. Under present law every mile of road is required to be worked. If it needs amendment I am in favor of amending it. Am not wedded to the letter of the present act. Claims that he is honest. The bond issue for roads is only gotten up to sidetrack the real issue. We have had a sad experience with the issue of bonds for railroads. Now paying over \$8,000 interest on railroad bonds, and still have to pay our fares to ride on them. Opposed to saddling bonds on our children. Believes the people would defeat by a vote of two to one the movement to issue bonds for road building. The present road law is fair to every citizen. No one has charged it with unfairness. York county copied word for word our present road law. The law is based on democratic principles. No desire to burden the people with a single unnecessary dollar for the improvement of the roads. With what experience he has had in the past in the legislature, he is better fitted than ever for the place again. Favors the repeal of the lien law and advocates a restriction of the mortgage crop law, so as to make the mortgage valid only on crops actually in existence. This does not affect the landlord's lien for rent or advances.

CAPT. JNO. W. HAMEL.

Has been before the people of county several times in the last thirteen years. Have represented you in the Constitutional Convention and in the Legislature. Proud of record in both bodies.

You are being forced by the requirements of the constitution to pay the taxes you are now paying for educational purposes. Favors special taxes for school purposes, for under that system the taxpayers have the right to pay to what schools they wish their taxes to go. While in Legislature did his best for the people. Is well known over the State, by reason of attendance upon political, religious and social gatherings in the State.

Has spent nearly all his life in this county. Every dollar he has made here, and has it here now. Have always made a square race and am now in the race against gentlemen and have nothing to say against any of them. Every man has the right to work for any candidate he wishes to work for, but he has no right to work unfairly and to listen to and be influenced by every idle or malicious tale that may be circulated. If you need a superintendent in your business, you select a competent man. Use same judgment in selecting men for political office. Other things being equal, his past experience in legislative bodies should better fit him for the position to which he again aspires. Can't elect a man who will agree with you in everything. Those who enacted the present road law should explain it fully as to its effects and operations. The law was the work of your senator and your two representatives in the House. It can not be amended at the next session without the consent of your senator, it mat-

ters not who you may send to the Legislature. Wishes to be frank with the people. I will not surrender my self respect and my independence for any office. Am running on my own record, not attacking the record of any man.

No sane man would advocate the bringing into this State undesirable people. The laws of the State and the U. States forbid the spending of the State's money in bringing immigrants here. The whiskey question is in no great issue in this campaign. Have always opposed the sale of whiskey and will always do so. If the liquor question ever gets squarely before the people of the State, believes that the State would go for State prohibition. Is grateful for the past support given him. If reelected will give his best services and energy to his people whom he has always been delighted to serve.

HON. GEO. W. JONES.

Glad to have an opportunity of giving an account of my stewardship. An examination of my record will show that I opposed bucket shops and the bureau of immigration, as I promised you. Visited Mr. Watson's office and saw the class of people brought to this country by him, and never saw a lower class of people anywhere. Told the Legislature so. Never missed the roll call a single session of the Legislature. A member of the Farmer's Union. An organization whose opinions and resolutions are to be respected. Am opposed to the lien law and to foreign immigration. Am opposed to the issuance of bonds to build roads. Our experience with railroad bonds has been a sad one. Now have a bonded debt of \$240,000 and we cannot stand another issue. Under the present road law the farmer, the merchant, the banker, the R.R., pays his share. The railroads and cotton mills, to whom we haul our cotton and other produce, should pay their share of the road tax—just as the present law provides.

We can carry the present burden until we can do better. Negroes would pay \$6000 towards road. The law provides for a competent engineer to superintend the road improvements.

No man has ever gone to Legislature and favored a bill to increase taxes who has not made enemies. Knew that when he voted for the present law, but considered it for the good of the people and therefore did not hesitate to vote for it. Good roads must come. They are more important than my return to the legislature. If law will not answer purpose it can be amended or repealed. If, on the other hand, bonds are issued for road building, there is no remedy by which we can get rid of them until they are paid. Once voted on the county—they must and will be a burden until paid by future generations. For years he has been trusted by the people in various positions. The idea of issuing bonds for road building is only intended as a means of defeating the good roads movement, for is satisfied that the people of the county will never vote bonds. Along with 44 other farmers in the legislature he stood for the strictest economy. You said several years ago, that you wanted good roads. In supporting the present road law I was simply doing what I promised you to do. If you vote bonds for road building, you eliminate the negro from the payment of the road tax. Asks for an expression as to whether the people favor the new law. "You who are in favor of the new road law, hold up your hands."—"Am glad to see that a majority of you favor it." Promised that if reelected, he would always do what he thought was best for the people of the county and the state.

MR. HARRY HINES.

Is a candidate for the House of Representatives. Deeply grateful for the support given him two years ago. Standing in the shadow of a splendid school building on the one side and a commodious House of God on the other, he is warranted in believing that the voters of this progressive community will exercise their best judgment in their selection of men to represent them in the halls of legislation. A representative in the legislative department of the government is the mouth-piece of the people whom he represents; and therefore he should be a man who can present the claims of his constituency in language and manner that will command the attention of his colleagues. A candidate

for such a position should be open, candid and honest in the discussion of all public questions and should not attempt to so muddy the waters that it is difficult or impossible for the voters to know his real position. Has views on all public questions and will not hesitate to express himself fully. All he asks in this race is a fair show and a square deal, and to be judged by his competency for the position to which he aspires and by his private and professional life.

The Farmers' Union has asked the views of candidates on the lien law and the bureau of immigration. Is glad to let his position be known. The farmers being the back bone of the state and contributing to the financial success of all the other classes of citizens, no sane man would vote against the interest of the farmers, if he knew it. If the farmers of this county desire the repeal of the lien law (and he is willing to submit the question to them), he would vote for its repeal. The continued existence or the repeal of this law affects them more than any other class of our people and they should be allowed to decide the question for themselves.

The whiskey question is no issue in present campaign. It has been settled by the vote of the people—at least for the present. All who heard him in the campaign two years ago know his position on the liquor question. As to the branch of the state government known as the Bureau of Immigration he stands just where he stood two years ago. If the funds of the state are being used either directly or indirectly by this department to bring into the state or to induce to come into the state immigrants who are in any way undesirable, he with all good citizens will, if elected, vote to abolish that branch of the department of agriculture and commerce. At the first campaign meeting two years ago at Belair he was the first candidate to advocate the working of the public roads by a wise system of taxation. Stands on the same platform today. It is not his desire or intention to fight any man or set of men in the expression of his honest views on the road question.

He has views just as they have. If the people, after hearing his plans and views as to the best method of improving the public highways, do not approve them, he stands ready, if elected, to carry out such wise plans as the people may approve of. Asks the people to consider the following plan. Let the present law stand as it is and the road authorities make the most out of it that they can make until the question can be submitted to the people—as to whether they are willing to issue \$100,000 or \$150,000 in bonds for the building of permanent roads. If they should vote for the measure, then let the income from the present road law be used to pay the annual interest on the bonds and to keep in repair the roads and bridges that will have been constructed with funds arising from the bond issue. Believes that after paying the interest on the bonds and paying the expenses of keeping in repair the roads and bridges, there would still be left a considerable sum of the proceeds of the present levy for road purposes which could go into a sinking fund to be used in the retirement of these bonds when they became due. Under this plan of issuing bonds there would be no necessity for any increase of the taxes for road purposes—over the amount now levied under the last act. If the \$30 or \$35 per mile—now allowed by the new law—was sufficient to build necessary bridges and to do any work of consequence on the roads, there would be no necessity to issue bonds. Under present law, contends that the roads would be but little improved, if any—however wisely the funds might be used. Under the present law, no discretion allowed authorities to apportion to a mile or section of bad road any more money than to a mile or section not so bad. On the great majority of the sections of road, as laid out, \$30 or \$35 per mile would do but little good—especially if on that section there was a bridge to be built and kept in repair. Under the plan of issuing bonds, we would keep all accrued interest on them paid up out of the proceeds of the present levy, have our roads properly and permanently contracted and kept in repair, and have future generations (who are to use the roads) help us to pay off the bonds when they become due. It is on the

same principle that suitable school buildings and other necessary institutions are being constructed all over state. The present generation gets benefits flowing from them, pays all accruing interest on the bonds, and creates a sinking fund that will assist future generations to pay off the bonds at maturity. Insists, however, that people should be allowed to decide themselves, by voting on the question as to how they desire to be taxed, road improvement. Certainly the plan provided for in the present act will not be submitted to them for the approval or rejection. Is opposed to the levy of any taxes except those necessary for the county and state government—until the taxpayers have been allowed an opportunity to pass upon the wisdom and practicability of the plan. Such are his views hurriedly and briefly stated on the road question. Should they meet the approval of the people of the county and he should be elected he will take the necessary steps to carry out plan. If the bond issue should not be endorsed by them at the polls, he stands ready, if elected, to advocate and work for the success of any other wise and practicable plan that the people may decide upon for the improvement of the highways of the county. Would say to those who do not know him: To go or write to the people in the upper portion of this county, in the town of Lancaster or in Waxhaw, N. C., among whom he has labored for years. Is willing to be judged by what the people among whom he has lived and labored may say of his competency, his professional standing, and his private character.

For Sheriff.

JNO. P. HUNTER.

In seeking endorsement, rests his claim on past record. If he has been faithful throughout the years he has served the people, then he asks for a reelection. Has not willingly hurt the feelings of any man. That he may die before the next term expires, is no argument that he should not be endorsed by the people—if he has done his duty. May have made some mistakes and a few enemies. Is grateful for the support he has received in the past. Has no feelings against his enemies and would do anything he could for their comfort. Confident that his friends will do their duty on the 25th of August.

W. B. CAUTHEN.

A candidate for the sheriff's office. The present incumbent was elected about 28 years ago. With the exception of a few years while in the employment of the U. S.—he has served you. Thinks it time to elect some one else to the office.

H. N. SOWELL.

A candidate for the sheriff's office. Has no record of having held this office; but is satisfied that he can fill it as well as the present incumbent. The present incumbent is not in need and is not obliged to have the office in order to live. He, like the present sheriff, needs sympathy. Present incumbent owns much property on Midway and his monthly rents are considerable. What he has he has worked for. Nobody gave him anything. Knows that he can fill the office to the satisfaction of the people.

JAS. S. WILSON.

was before the people of this county 8 years ago for the office of Sheriff. Is running against no man, but they all are running against him. Two of them are running, he predicts, to find the N. C. line and the other just going around telling the people good bye. Would like to succeed the best sheriff that the county ever had. Thinks he has demonstrated his ability to fill the office, having been deputy sheriff for several years. No man should want office for all time. His people furnished soldiers for the civil war. They have paid their share of the taxes. He should be shown some consideration. Wants to see one fair race in Lancaster county before judgment day. For four years he has been indorsed and reindorsed as sergeant-at-arms of the Lower House of the general assembly. If he can be elected and indorsed by strangers, why can he not be elected and indorsed by his own people? He is running with the best of feelings towards all the candidates.

All candidates for Sheriff having been introduced, the chairman of